

From: Oded Helman
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Well I'll be short, I think that after the years of trial put into the fact that Microsoft broke the law, the settlement that was achieved is so vague that it is quite probable that that Microsoft will continue to do what they have been doing even during when the Trial was going on, and that's bullying the Computer Industry to have it their way, it's not the fact that they bundled applications with their OS, but the fact that they terrorize Hardware Manufacturers and even competing platforms (i.e. Apple) to include their software and not include other software which might be better or face the punishment of not getting Microsoft software at all. For example Microsoft threatening Apple to include only Internet Explorer and not Netscape Communicator or Microsoft will stop developing Office for the Mac. Another example is that Apple uses their OS power to make 3rd party Apps to malfunction, for example competing apps to Office which Microsoft even have a bigger monopoly than in the OS business, or causing Quicktime to malfunction so people will use Windows Media Player and the list goes on.

I don't know what is the right answer, maybe splitting the company to 2, 3, more other companies which are not allowed to have the same Executives, board of directors and main share holders is the answer, maybe the answer is not allowing by law to Microsoft executives, to be a part of Microsoft anymore, make them sell all their stock and they are not to be allowed to work for the Company, maybe the solution is to not allow the Microsoft Executives to be part of the Computer Industry world anymore... what I am sure of that the settlement that says Microsoft promises to behave and not to be punished is not the answer, because if that will be the case we will be back at this point in 5-10 years.